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LITERATURE DEPARTMENT

OF THE

Board of Home Missions and the Woman's Executive Committee of the Presbyterian Church,

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Some Results of Presbyterian Missions in Utah.

BY REV. S. E. WISHARD, D.D.

It is fitting that our friends in the Eastern States should know something of the results of that mission work in Utah to which they are giving their prayers and money. It is the purpose of this brief sketch to furnish at least a small amount of that information.

It is pleasant to the Home Missionaries on the frontier to know, even though it be deemed only a sentiment, that the man who laid the deep and broad foundations of Home Missions for our church, was the first Presbyterian minister to lift his voice with the gospel message before a Mormon audience. While on his way to the coast in those perilous days in 1864, Dr. Henry Kendall

was invited to speak in the great Tabernacle at Salt Lake City. It was at a time when the Mormon prophets were predicting the downfall of our government. Brigham's invitation to Dr. Kendall to preach, had in it the jeer and taunt of the old mockers who said to God's oppressed people, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion." Whatever Brigham's thought was, Dr. Kendall struck a gospel note that has been rising and echoing through these mountains ever since. In 1869 that note was taken up by the intrepid Dr. Sheldon Jackson and repeated from Corinne, on the northern shores of the Great Salt Lake, where the first Presbyterian church in Utah was organized a little later. On the 28th of September, 1871, Rev. Josiah Welch entered Salt Lake City to take his part in the chorus that was to follow. Like Noah's dove, he "found no place for the sole of his foot," for a time. Every door was locked against the proclamation of the gospel, until in his wanderings it was his good hap to fall upon a spot which Brigham Young had forgotten to close against him. It was the loft of a livery-stable. While the Master began in the manger, Brother Welch began one story higher. The first Presbyterian church of Salt Lake City was organized a little less than two months later (November 12, 1871,) whether in that upper room, or in a stall of the stable, history is silent.

With the entrance of the gospel minister, came the Mission school teacher. These were the beginnings of our work in this difficult field. From the preaching in that loft, the organization of the

Fourteen of our church officers, elders and deacons have come out of Mormonism. One of these elders, who had once been a Mormon missionary and afterward had gone into infidelity, regards the consistent and godly walk of his pastor as God's instrumentality in bringing him to accept Christ. With deep gratitude these earnest converts from Mormonism "remember the hole of the pit whence they were digged." Two of our earnest and successful ministers came out of Mormonism. The story of their conversion and work would be interesting if there were space in this brief leaflet to give it. We count them among the best fruits of our work, the results of which the future alone can unfold.

Our mission teachers have displayed a moral heroism and self-denial not surpassed on the foreign field. Passing a cabin in one of our towns, a friend pointed to a small gable window in a low attic, which was scarcely more than a loft, saying: "Through that window, by a ladder from the outside, our first teachers went to the only place they could secure as a home." One of our teachers had her school emptied again and again, by the command of the bishop; for in those days the bishop's orders were law. At one time she rang her school bell regularly for three months without a pupil. Asked for an explanation of this persistence, she replied: "I meant to let them know I was there." The Mormons concluded she was there to stay, and the children did return.

Other teachers were subjected to public slanders and indignities that cannot be written, but which

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To-day we are a Presbytery with t
ministers, preaching to twenty-two chu
eight mission stations; having under
1,108 members and 2,800 Sunday-school

The first mission school, opened by
Coyner with thirty pupils, April 12,
grown to 30 schools, with 71 teachers an
and 2,414 pupils in these schools durin
year. Four of these schools are well
academies, with an enrollment of mor
pupils in all departments of study. A
these are in course of preparation fo
some of them looking forward to the
others to the work of teaching. In
providence of God we are soon to c
Christian educational work with a Coll
the auspices of our church. A beaut
eighty acres of land has been donated
Sheldon Jackson has obligated himself
$50,000 more to inaugurate the work, a
now at the throne of grace, asking
Giver to provide us with just as much m
need. And we have His pledge (John
that it will come. It is just like Him to
promise. He has done it in all of the
of our work here has been prayer and a

Out of one of our most discouraging f
a bright lad a few years ago, converte
to enter the ministry. He worked
through Park College and graduated

taking the first honors of his class. He entered the Western Theological Seminary last September, and while we are in tears Fred. Feeger is with the Master in higher service.

Another of our Mission pupils graduated with honor at Knox College last June, after taking the first prize in the interstate oratorical contest, and is now a professor in a college in the State of Washington. The teacher of Latin in the High School of Salt Lake City, an earnest, Christian young woman, went from our Mission school to an Eastern college, graduated last June, and is now making the contribution of her life to higher education in Utah. Another, who graduated at our Collegiate Institute, is now well on her way in a course of medical instruction in Chicago, preparing for work in the Foreign Mission field, aided by an elder in Indiana. The first graduating class from the Salt Lake Collegiate Institute went out in 1882. Since that date about seventy-five young women and young men have received their diplomas and have gone out to contribute to the moral and intellectual uplift of Utah. One of these young ladies, after serving successfully as mission teacher for several years, last year fell heir to a few thousand dollars. She provided her mother, who had been cast off by the father, with a home, and has gone to Lake Forest University to take a higher course. While absent from her home at Mount Pleasant, where she formerly taught, she pays the salary of a consecrated kindergartner, as a sort of representative of herself.

were patiently born for Christ's sake. The consistent character, patient endurance, superior work of our teachers, and the power of the Gospel which they exemplified, have been the moral forces which even Mormon persecution and prejudice could not withstand.

That which cannot be written or measured of this mission work can be understood only by those of us who are familiar with the difficulties which confront us. Mormonism does not change its doctrines, but the door of access to the people is gradually opening wider. While oppositions do not cease, yet encouragements multiply; and on certain moral questions the Mormon church has been compelled to take a stand in opposition to its past practices. The light has already broken over these mountain peaks. We are toiling in fellowship with our friends in the East, and waiting for the high noon that must certainly come in fulfillment of "God's abiding promise."

Price one cent each; 75 cents per hundred.

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